Ray Rinaldi

More Talk About Taxes

I don't think anyone really believed that the school board would raise our taxes 15 mills, as originally proposed in the tentative budget, and no one was really surprised at the final verdict of 6 mills.

What surprised, and I guess even shocked me the most, was the small turnout of "concerned citizens." Sitting in the audience were the same eight or ten people who always attend Board meetings, the same faces I see at Council meetings. I didn't see any of the people who have been ranting and raving for the past month over the "excesses" of the school board, the people who are so quick to shout "crooks" on the street corner but who for one reason or another can't seem to make it to a meeting to voice their opinions publicly.

After listening to these injured cries of indignation for over a month, I expected the parking lot to be jammed, the library to be full to capacity. Those who attended could have moved the chairs aside and held a couple of square dances.

It was a very business-like meeting, with very few recriminations from the audience. I guess everyone realized that an increase in taxes was inevitable. The cost of everything has gone up over the past year, and it follows naturally that the taxes have to go up to pay for the increases.

I honestly believe that you're going to see a drastic change in the school district over the next six months. There are certain items mandated by the State that the school board can do nothing about, however there are a dozen and more items that can, and should be cut from the system, including the extracurricular activities of the many clubs within the school and the sports activities.

Education must come first. If the clubs and the sports programs have to be put on hold, or on a self-paying basis, so be it.

AROUND TOWN

The Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center in Carbondale, along with the Human Resources Center in Honesdale have come up with a program that will not only provide money for many disabled persons, but also give them work and in the process help clean up the area. They will be collecting aluminum cans and depositing them in brightly painted barrels placed at several distributors in the area who are assisting in the program. When the barrels are full they'll be picked up, the aluminum cans crushed and sold. The program has proved very successful in Wayne County and there's no reason why it shouldn't be a success in this area. The local distributors helping out are Kennedy's Beer Distributors, Jermyn; Cominsky Beer & Soda, Carbondale; Beer Barons, Eynon; Ace Beverage, Archbald; and Olyphant Bottling Company.

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Let me tell you about the respect some of the young people in the community have for the police and for the laws in Carbondale. Two days after last Sunday's column where I described the situation behind the south high-rise building, three young people, two boys and a girl, went behind the building, smoked their pot, drank their beer, stripped naked and engaged in sex. Finished with their activities they got dressed and went merrily on their way. This is a half block off Main Street and in broad daylight.

What respect one resident had for the police went down the tubes when he was given a ticket on Fallbrook Street. The following day a car was parked in front of City Hall, in front of the open door of the police station where the sign reads, "15 min. parking," and this gentleman says the car pulled in at 1:25 and departed at 3:35 with no ticket being given. This same gentleman says a different car parked in the same spot this past Tuesday, for two hours, and again no ticket was issued.

"It all depends on who you are in this town," he told me.

I couldn't argue with him.

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Belated birthday greetings to Nan Waters and Frank Grecco Sr. who celebrated this past Monday. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farrell who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary last Sunday.

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Helen Mudrick, Jean Rupp and Mary Franks, members of the Walter Pacega Post 4712 VFW Auxiliary, Simpson, have returned home after attending the VFW State Convention at Monroeville.

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Joe Hines, who is a 1937 graduate of St. Rose and who left Carbondale in 1938, back visiting with old friends over the weekend.

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Received a very nice letter from S. Robert Powell, President of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall. The comments were deeply appreciated.

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Vector Control has been in town during the week tearing down condemned buildings. Rather than haul the trash down to Dunmore at additional expense, they've been given permission to burn it over in the West Side stripping area. The burning is supervised, with one of our fire trucks standing by. A few of the residents in the area were worried that the fires were out of control. Not so, It's being done this way to save money.

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A graduation party was held June 19th at Morrison's Banquet Hall for Cheryl Lynn Weckel, daughter of Mrs. Helen Weckel, Pike St. Some of the guests included Mrs. John O'Connell, West Haven, Conn., Mrs. Esther Singer, Mrs. Delores Smith and children Ruth, Helen and Wilbur; John Battisti, Mrs. Margaret Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weckel and children Charles, Charlene and Jeffrey; Tom Kohut, Julie Zulick, Anna Swanick.

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